

*History of the*

HIBERNIAN

SOCIETY

OF BALTIMORE

JOHN A. WYATT















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OF BALTIMORE







History of the  
Hibernian Society of Baltimore  
1803 - 1957

*by*

HAROLD A. WILLIAMS

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HIBERNIAN SOCIETY OF BALTIMORE

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND



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*This book is dedicated to  
Dr. Charles Maguire and Major James A. Law,  
members of the Society,  
who gave their lives  
to help their fellowman.*





## Foreword

TO A VERY large extent, the story of the Hibernian Society of Baltimore career has been a hidden one, devoted to the unpublicized service of great good, and the years have been always busy ones—intense even though unheralded—and we hope the details recorded here will be read with pleasure and recalled with fond admiration.

We here present the whole saga of the Hibernian Society of Baltimore from the earliest times to our own, and we have tried to give not only facts and dates and names, but a real sense of the mind and temperment of the Irish people of Baltimore who were members of our ancient and honorable Society, their ways of life, ideals and an understanding account of their culture. This book is inscribed as a loving tribute to the hallowed memory of those who have gone before us and to all the living members who remember the heroic records of our race and in undying strains sing the glories, the sorrows and radiant hopes of a beloved Ireland.

The Committee on History

WILLIAM B. HYSAN, JR., *Chairman*

EDWARD L. FLANIGAN

JAMES P. WALSH

ALFRED J. O'FERRALL, JR.

THOMAS F. DEMPSEY





## Acknowledgments

THE MINUTES of the Hibernian Society of Baltimore for October 4, 1852, state, "On motion of D. J. Foley it was resolved that a committee be appointed to collect, collate, and publish in pamphlet or book form the history of the Society from its organization."

Since that time four attempts were made to prepare and publish a history, but it was not until the administration of R. Emmett Voelkel, the retiring president, that the task was accomplished. He, more than anyone else, is responsible for the publication of the book.

Many have helped in the preparation of it, but the author is particularly indebted to:

William B. Hysan, Jr., chairman of the Society's committee on history, whose encouragement and understanding were of great help from the planning stage to the very end.

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Mr. Lanigan, secretary of the Society, and Alfred E. Cross, treasurer and custodian of records, who responded wholeheartedly to every call.



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Stuart Bruchey, who made available information from his manuscript, "Robert Oliver, Merchant of Baltimore," which had not yet been published by the Johns Hopkins University Press.

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## The Beginning

THE STORY BEGINS on a summer evening in 1803. A group of Irishmen—the exact number is not known, but it probably was small—gathered in the tavern of the Fountain Inn to do something for those who were arriving daily in Baltimore from Ireland “friendless and forlorn.”

The men were drawn to the inn by word of mouth and this advertisement which appeared in the *American Patriot and Fells Point Advertiser*:

Emigrants are daily arriving from Ireland; many of them are in a friendless and forlorn condition, deprived of health and an asylum—They have a claim upon those who have preceded them, to whom industry has proved propitious. There are many—very many of our inhabitants who feel all the influence of compassion, and who impatiently wait to be informed how they may make themselves useful to unprotected adventurers—A meeting of all those who are so disposed, whether foreigners or natives, is requested tomorrow evening, at five o'clock, at Mr. Bryden's tavern, Light-street, in order to devise a plan by which their benevolent designs may be carried into execution.

The meeting—it took place on August 17—is significant because it was the beginning of the Hibernian Society of Baltimore. There is no record of what took place, but it can be surmised that the men decided to organize as the Benevolent Hibernian Society “for the relief of emigrants.”



The name appears in the advertisement announcing the second meeting at Bryden's Fountain Inn on September 13. The short notice concluded, "It is hoped the subscribers will be punctual in their attendance, as rules by which the Society is to be governed must be formed." A third meeting was held on October 4. Because of "the thin attendance" it was adjourned until Saturday evening, October 8, again at the Fountain Inn. At that time "a plan of constitution was agreed to," and officers were elected. They were: Dr. John Campbell White, president; Thomas McElderry, Esq., vice president; George Salmon, Esq., treasurer; George Douglas, secretary. Committee: Dr. John Crawford, Messrs. D. Stewart, Stewart Brown, Robert Moore, Hugh Young, Thomas Dickson and Nat Thompson.

Dr. White has always been acknowledged as the founder of the Society. Though there is no proof that he was, there is no reason to doubt it, and at least one circumstantial detail to support it. Dr. White's name was the only one to appear on advertisements calling for organization of the Society.

He was 46 and a man of stature when he assumed the presidency. He had been born in Templepatrick, Ireland, the son of Robert and Jane White. His mother was a Thompson and aunt of John Campbell, Lieutenant-General of the Isle of Jersey and a connection of the Duke of Argyle. His father was a Presbyterian minister and was well enough off to educate his son in medicine at the University of Edinburgh and at Middlesex Hospital in London. Dr. White married Elizabeth Getty and practiced medicine in Belfast until 1798. He was active in the Society of United Irishmen, which, in 1798, attempted to overthrow British rule. The rebellion failed. Many of its members—who became known as the "Men of '98"—either escaped from Ireland or were deported. Dr. White and his wife fled to America and settled in Baltimore. By 1801 he was a member of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland.

The other officers and the committeemen were also prominent. McElderry operated a soap and candle factory and was a leader in military matters. McElderry Street is named in his honor. Salmon was the first president of the Bank of Baltimore. Douglas was a bookseller and publisher. Dr. Crawford was the grandmaster of Free Masons. He later became one of the great professors of the University of Maryland Medical School and is credited with envisioning the germ theory 60 years before Pasteur confirmed it. Stewart had large shipping interests. Brown was a merchant, brother of Alexander Brown, and a pillar of the First Presby-

terian Church. Moore was another merchant; he also was a member of the '98 rebellion. Young was a merchant and owner of privateers during Revolutionary times. Dickson was a retired merchant.

The Baltimore of that day had a population of about 30,000 making it the third largest city in the seventeen states. It extended, roughly, from Harris's Creek on the southeast to the western branch of the Patapsco River which was crossed with three wooden bridges. There were few streets above what is now Centre Street. Among the town officials were a superintendent of sweeps, a superintendent of the powder magazine, an inspector of salted provisions and the commissioner of the watch. James Calhoun was the mayor, the first one the town ever had.

Baltimore in 1803 probably looked much as it did a few years earlier when this description was written—"The buildings are principally placed between Howard Street and the Falls. The main street is 80 feet wide, and extends from east to west about three-quarters of a mile and is called Baltimore Street. Pratt, Water, Second and East [Fayette] streets have the same direction and are from 40 to 60 feet wide. They are intersected at right angles by Market Street, 150 feet wide, Frederick, Gay, South, Calvert, Charles, Hanover and Howard streets, which are from 66 to 80 feet wide and compactly built. . . .The public buildings are a court-house, jail, market-houses, a poorhouse, which stands on the northwest side of the town, besides three banks and exchange, and a theater. . . .The court-house is a brick building erected upon an arch in the north end of Calvert Street. In the next square, a little to the northwest, is the jail. The houses of public worship are ten, viz: one for Episcopalians, one for Presbyterians, one for German Lutherans, one for German Calvinists, one for the Reformed Germans, one for Nicolites or new Quakers, one for Baptists, one for Roman Catholics, and two for Methodists, one of which stands at Fell's Point. . . .The number of houses at present is about 3,500; the greater part of them are brick, and many of them are handsome and elegant. The number of warehouses is about 170, chiefly placed contiguous to the harbor. . . .The articles manufactured here are sugar, rum, tobacco, snuff, cordage, paper, wool and cotton-cards, nails, saddles, boots, shoes, ship-building in all its various branches, besides a variety of other articles. . . . It is peopled from various parts of the Union, and from different countries in Europe. The inhabitants by mixing together in a social and friendly manner, have a politeness in their address and conversation which renders



*This view of Baltimore was painted about the time the Society was founded. Building with arch is courthouse.*

them pleasant and agreeable companions. . .”

Little is known of the Society’s early years because the first records have disappeared. The only information comes from the age-stained pages of the newspapers of that day. The *Baltimore Telegraphe*, for example, devoted more than a column of its four-page paper on March 19, 1804 to a report of the first annual meeting and banquet.

The affair was held at David Fulton’s Columbian Inn on St. Patrick’s Day. After election of officers—Dr. White was reelected president—and “business relative to their benevolent designs,” the “numerous members”



sat down to "a very elegant dinner" and "the evening was spent in the greatest harmony." Thirty-one toasts were proposed. They were: 1, The Day We Celebrate; 2, Our Native Land; 3, Our Adopted Country; 4, Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States; 5, The Immortal Washington; 6, Benjamin Franklin; 7, The Memory of Our Beloved Countryman Montgomery; 8, Prosperity to the City of Baltimore; 9, May the Voice of the People Be the Law of the Land; 10, Lately Imported Patriots; 11, Exports of America—"may her enemies be first"; 12, United States as an Asylum for the Persecuted; 13, National Education; 14, Memory of that Eminent Philosopher and Philanthropist, Dr. Joseph Priestly; 15, American Industry; 16, American Flag; 17, Agriculture; 18, Canals, Rivers and Highways; 19, The Fair of America, "may their minds be as highly adorned as their bodies"; 20, Party Spirit; 21, Universal Charity; 22, Memory of John Locke; 23, Memory of President Montesquieu; 24, Civil and Religious Liberty to All Mankind.

At this point the president and vice president withdrew and then the following toasts were offered—25, President and Vice President of the Hiberian Society; 26, Union and Perseverance to the Society; 27, Liberal Donations to Our Distressed Friends in Norfolk; 28, Congress of the United States; 29, Our Distressed Brethren in Ireland; 30, Fair Daughters of Erin, "may they never smile on the enemies of their country"; 31, the different Hibernian Societies in the Union, "and all other societies established for the relief of the distressed."

In 1805 and 1806 the members also had a full day on March 17. After attending the banquet many took part in a St. Patrick's Ball, which, though it was managed by men who were active in the Society, had no official connection with the benevolent association.

Through 1809 the annual meetings and banquets were held at Fulton's Tavern. The meeting—election of officers and "examination of accounts"—began at 2 P.M., the dinner promptly at 3 o'clock, followed by toasts and songs. At the second banquet 30 toasts were drunk—just one less than in 1804. At the 1809 banquet all toasts were proposed by President White; they were now down to 20. The 1810 meeting and celebration were held at the Globe Tavern on Baltimore Street. A newspaper account stated, "though the meeting was not so numerous as was expected and wished for, they [the members] spent the evening with that hilarity and good humor for which the sons of St. Patrick are so conspicuous." Twenty toasts were proposed.

According to tradition, based mainly on a speech Dr. White's grandson made at the centennial dinner, Dr. White served as president through 1811. He actually served at least one more year. The *American and Commercial Advertiser* reported the following elected at the March 1811 meeting—Dr. White, president; Dr. Crawford, vice president; the Rev. William Sinclair, secretary, and Stewart Brown, treasurer.

However, it cannot be established who was president during the next few years. The club records give no clues. Newspaper accounts of the annual meetings do not mention a president's name again until 1815 when John O'Donnell, the wealthy merchant, landowner and shipping magnate, was the head of the group. Dr. White probably was succeeded in 1812 by either Dr. Crawford or O'Donnell, who made a fortune in the East Indian trade and named Canton after the port of Canton, China.

Dr. White may have declined another term in view of more pressing responsibilities. When the long-anticipated war with Great Britain was formally declared on June 18, 1812, he assumed a leading role in Baltimore's defense. He was a member of a "committee of supply" which was authorized to expend \$20,000 for the defense of the city.

Baltimore realized that it would undoubtedly come under British attack because it was world famous as the "great depository of the hostile spirit of the United States against England" and the home port of the nerry privateers that harassed British shipping. Cannon were mounted in what is now Patterson Park. Twice a week, on Wednesdays and Saturdays, infantry battalions and artillery companies marched to Fort McHenry "to be trained to the defense of the fortifications." Baltimore was ready when the attack came. After the British captured Washington and burned the White House, an army of 5,000 landed on North Point while the British fleet sailed up the Patapsco. The citizen soldiers—3,200-strong and undoubtedly including members of the Hibernian Society—repulsed the British. Then the defenders at Fort McHenry withstood a 25-hour attack of rockets and bombs from the British fleet. It was during this battle, on September 13 and 14, 1814, that Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the words of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

The war—even the attack on Baltimore—did not prevent the Society from meeting. In 1812 and 1813 the members met and dined at the Union Hotel on Holliday Street, next door to the Holliday Street theater. In 1814 they met, but evidently did not dine, at Mrs. Winkle's tavern. The

papers were so filled with war news that there was no space for an account of the Hibernians' doings. In 1815 the members met again at Mrs. Winkles. John O'Donnell was elected president; Luke Tiernan, vice president; Stewart Brown, treasurer, and John D. Craig, secretary. The committee of relief included J. Sullivan, James Ramsey, William Young, John Henderson, John McKim, Jr., George Douglas and David Fulton. One of the nineteen toasts at the dinner was to "the memory of our brave fellow citizens who, in September last, purchased safety for Baltimore at expense of their individual lives."

The records of the Society date from March 11, 1816. At a meeting on that date William Gwynn, Esq., Fielding Lucas, Jr., and the secretary, Mr. Craig, were appointed to provide a book "for recording the transactions of the Institution." The main purpose of the meeting, however, was to receive and act on a new constitution which had been drawn up by Gwynn. The constitution was read, article by article, and unanimously adopted. It probably was at this time that the name was changed from the Benevolent Hibernian Society to the Hibernian Society of Baltimore.

The Society was incorporated in February, 1818 by act of the Maryland General Assembly. The next month it received its seal—"The front figure represents the Genius of the Society, which stands ready to defend and relieve, with one hand stretched as if debarring that evil which may be impending. The other figure sitting in a mourning attitude represents the Genius of Hibernia in distress and the vessel on the distant sea represents emigration. Over the Genius of Hibernia is an eagle, holding an half developed scroll inscribed with these words, 'Enjoy this asylum, thy Sons have bled for it.'"

Plans were made to have diplomas engraved for the members. Hugh Anderson, of Philadelphia, was commissioned to make a copperplate engraving, 12 by 17 inches "with appropriate emblematic devices and executed equal to any extant in this country." Anderson was a noted artist. He engraved a number of plates for Bradford's edition of the Edinburgh Encyclopedia and also engraved portraits and book illustrations. His fee was \$300. The plate was not finished until 1820 and then diplomas were offered to members for \$2. At the initial offering only ten accepted.

We have no way of knowing just what the Society did in its first years to help the Irish emigrant. Like its sister society—the Hibernian Society of Philadelphia for the Relief of Emigrants from Ireland, which was



founded in 1790—it undoubtedly gave financial, medical and moral assistance from the time the emigrant arrived until he was settled and working.

After 1816, when minutes were kept, we know that the Society's interest in the emigrant ranged from investigating "the outrages committed on the person of Michael Kirby by the Military at Fort McHenry" to checking incoming passenger ships from Ireland "to make strict inquiry whether said passengers have had justice done them during the voyage and whether any of them stand in need of such aid, as the Society can afford."

In December, 1817, the Society, in cooperation with the Irish Emigrant Society of New York and the Philadelphia organization, attempted to obtain a land grant in Illinois from the Federal Government "for the exclusive use of Irish emigrants on terms more favorable to the purchaser than those now authorized." A memorial of the plan was presented to Congress. Despite formidable lobbying, no action was taken.

This varied activity was supported by a fairly meager treasury. In 1816 there was a balance of only \$187.82. By the next year it had risen to \$713.70. The money was used to purchase seven shares of Union Bank of Maryland stock. This was the first investment the Society made.

Most of the income came from dues, \$5 a year. To build the Society and the treasury a great deal of attention was devoted to membership campaigns. One of the most popular methods was to appoint two members in each of the eight wards to invite all Irishmen in their area to join. One Martin F. Maher was the best campaigner. One time he got nineteen names, another time fifteen more. Many of the new members never paid dues. They soon were dropped unless they had "the will but not the means" to pay. There were so many poor Irishmen rounded up that there was talk (in 1823) of forming an auxiliary society "from the lower classes of the Irish and their descendants who are unable or unwilling to give five dollars for dinner."

"Ward Irishmen," however, were in the minority. In fact, a great part of the membership was composed of the town's most prominent and influential men. In addition to those already mentioned some were—John

*This is one of the opening pages in the Society's first minute book. The date is March 18, 1816.*

Baltimore, Dec 10 1844.

This day being appointed for the Anniversary of the Baltimore Society of Brothers, the members met in the Beall's Hotel, and proposed a list of officers for ensuing year. On counting the ballot, it appeared that

John T. Smith was elected President  
John T. Smith was elected President  
John T. Smith was elected President  
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John T. Smith was elected President  
John T. Smith was elected President  
John T. Smith was elected President  
John T. Smith was elected President  
John T. Smith was elected President  
John T. Smith was elected President

The following gentlemen were elected to constitute the

Board of Managers  
Messrs. James T. Smith  
John T. Smith  
John T. Smith  
John T. Smith  
John T. Smith  
John T. Smith  
John T. Smith  
John T. Smith  
John T. Smith  
John T. Smith

An order that the principles on which this institution is established and the motives that led to its formation, be generally known; Resolved that the constitution and the names of the officers, elected for this year, be published in the American and Federal Express, the two most extensive newspapers in the city.

The Committee on Finance, to examine the accounts of the year, and report that the same have been examined, and that the balance in the treasury is \$100.00.

Resolved that the program, as given by the Secretary, be a summary of the work of the year, and report the same to the next meeting of the Society.

Resolved that the first Anniversary meeting shall be held in the Beall's Hotel, Baltimore.

Exp. 100

John T. Smith

Minutes of John T. Smith

McKim, a town commissioner and later founder of the McKim Free School; Robert Oliver, one of the wealthiest men in the Union; J. H. B. Latrobe, son of the famous architect, who later became counsel for the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and founder of the Maryland Institute; William Patterson, great merchant and ship owner, one of three Irishmen responsible for the planning of the B&O and father of Betsy who married Jerome Bonaparte, youngest brother of Napoleon; John Kennedy and his brother Anthony, later a United States Senator from Maryland and father of John Pendleton Kennedy, member of Congress and famous novelist, who also was a member.

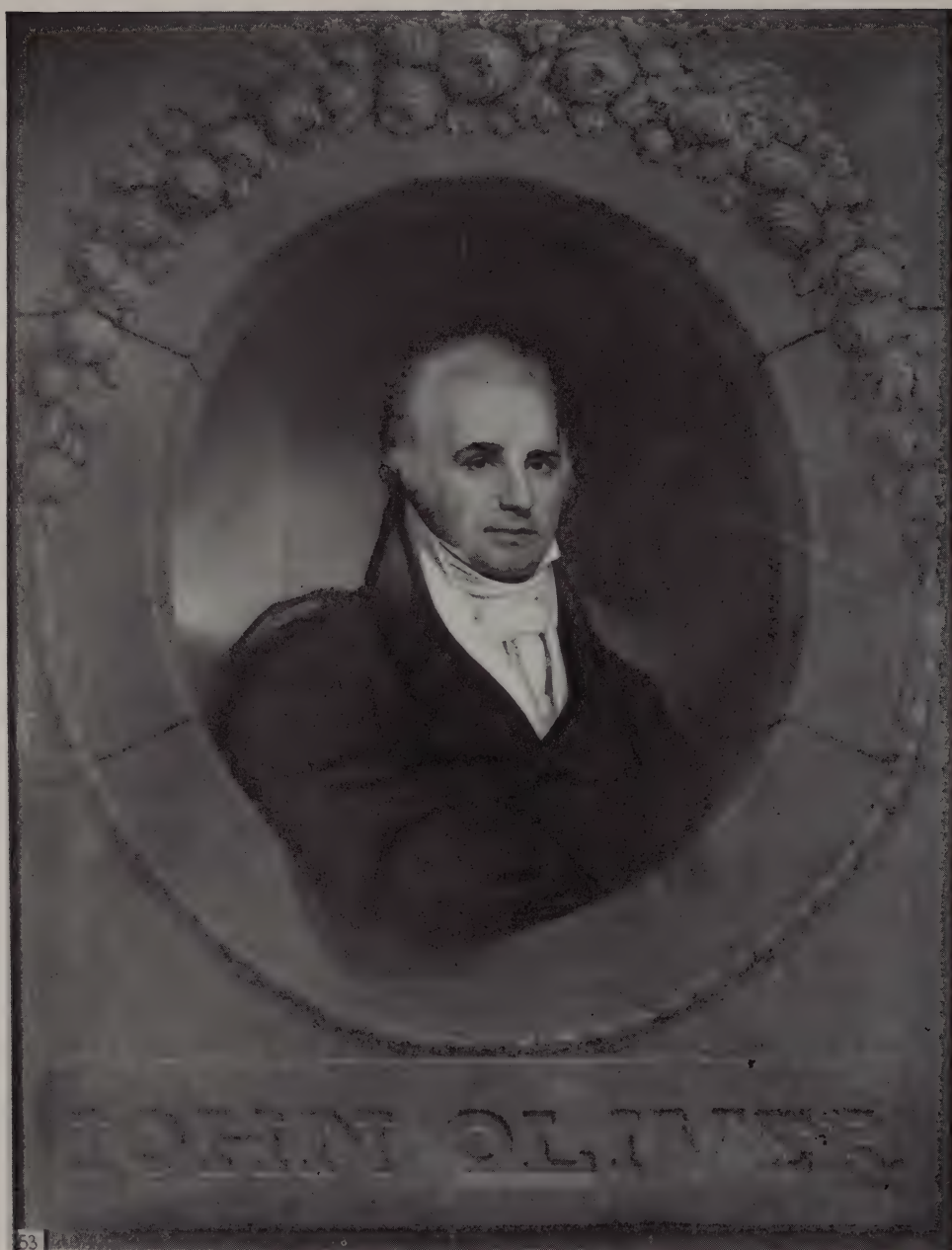
From 1817 to 1823 the annual meetings and dinner followed the usual pattern. Average attendance was about 30. Some dinners lasted more than five hours.

O'Donnell was president until 1818. He was succeeded by John Oliver, who served until his death. Oliver's connection with the Society is well known, even today, but little or nothing has been learned about the man himself. Stuart Bruchey, biographer of Robert Oliver, believes that John, Robert's younger brother, was born in northern Ireland, probably at Trooperfield. According to family tradition he came to Baltimore in May, 1790 and became a clerk in the firm of Oliver and Thompson. When the firm was dissolved in May, 1796, John joined Robert and another brother, Thomas, in the mercantile partnership of Robert Oliver & Brothers. Robert as senior partner received half the profits, the other two one-fourth. The firm was mainly engaged in foreign trade and, during the period of the Napoleonic Wars, in the re-export trade. Britain had cut the colonial communications of her European enemies so that American neutrals sometimes made fortunes in buying, for example, coffee in French Santo Domingo, transporting it to Europe where it was sold for high profits. Bruchey points out that Oliver's firm enjoyed phenomenal success at this business, particularly because it had a monopoly on exports to Vera Cruz, Mexico, during 1806 and 1807. The fortunes of Robert and John (Thomas died in 1803) came largely from this monopoly. Bruchey estimates John's capital at about \$900,000—this at a time when there were perhaps only six millionaires in the Union. Before his death, John, a bachelor, lived with Robert at the latter's town house, Gay and Market streets, where the doors were said to have been of solid mahogany and the mantels of carved Carrara marble.



John Oliver died in the first week of June, 1823. The *Federal Gazette* said that death came "after a lingering and painful illness." Then it added, "In him was united genuine independence of mind, to warm and steady friendship and honourable and upright principles of moral action . . . His friends and relations will long call to mind his past life with tears of affection and the poor will lift up their hands and bless his good deeds with grateful remembrance."

The Society called a special meeting at Williamson's Hotel to pay tribute to Oliver. As a token of their esteem and respect, the members voted to wear crape on their arm for 30 days.



*John Oliver, a wealthy merchant, left \$20,000 to the Society in 1824 to establish a free school for poor children. Portrait by Rembrandt Peale.*

## Little Red Schoolhouse

THE MOST momentous day in the history of the Hibernian Society was April 5, 1824. On that day the Oliver Hibernian Free School opened its doors to the poor children of Baltimore. The school—one of the first of its kind in Maryland—is long since gone, but the idea that gave it being is still the motivating force of the Society.

The school was the idea of John Oliver. In his will he remembered his three sisters, nephews and nieces, even distant relatives in Ireland whose names he did not know, and, most important of all, the children of Baltimore.

Concerning them he wrote, “To the Hibernian Society of Maryland I leave and bequeath the sum of twenty thousand dollars to be put into the hands of the President and directors of said Society for the time being or a majority of them to be by them invested in any manner which they may think proper for the purpose of establishing a free school in the city of Baltimore under their direction for the Education of Poor children of both sexes, one at least whose parents must be Irish and residing in or about Baltimore. And should it ever happen that said school should not have a sufficient number of scholars of Irish Parents as aforesaid, it is my wish that it should be filled with poor children born in the city or precincts but with this proviso that room must always be made when required for children of Irish parents and no distinction is ever to be made in the school as to the religious tenets of those that may apply for admission.”

Even before the money was forthcoming from the estate, the Society



made plans for the school, which was to be called the Oliver Hibernian Free School.

At a meeting on January 2, 1824, three resolutions were passed. The first was "to procure a suitable home in a convenient, central and healthy situation and organize a school" before March 17. The second was to have a portrait of Oliver painted before that date "by a first class artist." The third was to apply to the legislature for permission to hold a lottery to raise \$6,000 to buy a lot and erect a school building. The lottery plan was later withdrawn.

By January 19 the Society had picked out a house on the southeast corner of Lemmon and Holliday streets, formerly occupied as a free school by the Washington Society. The rent was \$180 a year. The Rev. John Haslett and Mrs. Sarah Baxter were selected as teachers from sixteen applicants. Though valiant effort was made to dedicate the school on St. Patrick's Day, delays forced a postponement until April 5. Then, at 11 A.M., the Rev. Dr. Glendy officially opened the school with a prayer. Luke Tiernan, president of the Society, read the rules and regulations. It was resolved that 50 copies be printed "in roman letters" and some hung in the classrooms. The Society further resolved that, for the present, enrollment be limited to 150 boys and 150 girls.

In its first annual report the school committee noted that it had been unable to fill the school with children of Irish parents; consequently "non-Irish" children were admitted. By the end of the first term there were 185 boys and 170 girls on the rolls; however, only about 150 boys and 120 girls attended regularly. Many could not go to school during the extreme cold weather because they lacked shoes and adequate clothing. When the school committee heard of a hardship case shoes and stockings were provided.

It was soon evident that the Lemmon Street property was too small and in too noisy a location. Plans were made to build a schoolhouse and a lot was purchased on Belvidere Street for \$1,500.\* It was a desirable spot, only a block or two from the best residential section and not too far from the Irish neighborhoods. Construction was underway in October and by

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\* Belvidere Street later became North Street and is now Guilford Avenue. The schoolhouse stood just north of Lexington Street, on what is now the site of the Municipal Building.

March, 1827, the building was finished. It was of plain design, reminiscent of English and Irish school architecture. The two-story red brick building contained only two rooms; the first floor was for boys, the second for girls. The children sat on benches. The walls were whitewashed and the only decoration mentioned was the Oliver portrait. It had cost the Society \$200. The schoolhouse, which could accommodate 500, cost \$5,827.50.

The members had hoped to pay for it through private subscriptions, saving Oliver's \$20,000 for endowment. But only \$1,312.60 was contributed. The Society had no other choice but to apply \$3,000 of the principal toward the cost.

The building was hardly finished before the school was in financial difficulties. The \$17,000 invested in six per cent first mortgages produced \$1,020 annually. The cellar was rented for \$75, and the Society made an annual contribution of \$100. That made the school fund \$1,195. It wasn't enough. The two teachers were paid \$950. There was a \$120 ground rent on the property (it had been sold to Robert Oliver for \$2,000) and an annual interest payment of \$90 to the Society for a loan of \$1,515. (That money had come from the sale of the Union Bank stock purchased in 1817 for \$736.) Only \$35 remained for such things as stationery, wood, incidentals. In other words, the school was operating at a loss.

There was talk of discontinuing the female department for a few years, but, as the minutes stated, "this would be very unpleasant to the managers, as well as injurious to these interesting little females who have been taken under our fostering care to receive an education and fit them for future usefulness in society—it would moreover be a reproach to the character of Irishmen."

Somehow or other, the minutes don't indicate how, the expenses were met and the two departments continued.

The students were taught spelling, reading, writing and arithmetic, and the girls also were taught "plain sewing." The Lancastrian system was used—this was a plan devised by a Baltimore educator by which one teacher, with the aid of monitors, could handle large numbers of pupils. School hours were from 9 to 12 and from 2 to 5, except Saturday when there were only morning classes. The school usually opened in September and closed in May, though sometimes it continued to July.

The Society endeavored to keep a close watch on the school, but, despite good intentions, things went wrong. In 1831 the two teachers resigned

because, they said, the classrooms were in horrible condition. A new teacher soon complained about her salary, was given a raise, but quit anyway. So, after a short time, did her successor. The cellar flooded, the sewer had to be fixed. In April, 1834, the financial situation was so bad that the girls' department was closed and the upstairs room rented. (Two years later, however, when there was a balance of \$841 in the school treasury it was reopened.)

On two occasions there were factional fights among the Hibernians concerning the use of the Bible. About 1836 the Bible was used as a classbook for a short time, and, according to one account, so many parents withdrew their children that "the schools were reduced to mere skeletons." When a second attempt was made a few years later the move was rebuffed by the members on the grounds that the use of the Bible would be in "direct violation" of Oliver's will.

The subject of religion came up again in 1840 when a report circulated that a "male Protestant youth had been refused admission because of his religion." A special committee found that this was based on a vague, indirect charge which was said to have been made ten years before. Because of the lapse in time the rumor could not be proved or disproved. But the committee concluded, "The committee before closing their report would avail themselves of the occasion to express their earnest hope that no attempt of this kind be made to invade the peace and harmony of the Society and destroy the usefulness of the school. Like all other human institutions we have elements enough of dissolution, without introducing one of this character, the most fatal of all to the civity and prosperity of any society, and it is the opinion of the committee that the person who is so far under the influence of bigotry as to suffer his religious views and feelings to prevent him from recognizing the claims of others differing from him to a participation in a common charity, is unworthy of being a member and should be visited by the indignation of every honest and impartial mind."

In March of 1841 the school again had financial trouble. There was less than \$40 in the treasury; fuel and stationery had to be bought and repairs made. The Society cancelled the interest on its \$1,515 loan. A move was made to reduce teachers' salaries and to ask each member for a special \$2 contribution. The Board of Managers limited enrollment at the current number, about 180, and announced that only children of



Irish parents would be admitted in the future. The restriction had never really been enforced before.

Every year the school committee made a report on conditions. Usually the report was favorable, speaking in flowery language about the zeal of the teachers, the diligence of the students and the cleanliness of the classrooms. Occasionally, though, an unfavorable report was submitted. The one for 1843 declared, "In our examination of the young girls attached to the school we found our expectations fully realized. Under the care of the two able and attentive ladies who have charge of that department the scholars had advanced as far as it was reasonable to expect from their age. Their penmanship was neat, their reading correct and their spelling sufficiently good. They had made some progress in the elements of arithmetic whilst their neatness of attire and mildness of deportment attracted our admiration. Your committee regret, however, that they cannot employ the same language of praise in relation to the male scholars of the institution. We were particularly struck with the want of order and the absence of discipline that marked the conduct of the scholars. With the exception of the penmanship and the ciphering of some few of the scholars we saw nothing that we could justly admire. The scholars from their number seemed beyond the control of the teacher. We found few who could read with correctness and even in spelling many were deficient, whilst nearly one third of the scholars, from their age, had learned but little more than the names of their letters. This, in the opinion of your committee is a posture of affairs that should not be suffered to continue. We know the disadvantages which poverty throws around the scholars, we know the inconveniences to which it subjects the teacher and how much it detracts from his powers to impart information by causing the scholars through necessity on many occasions to be absent, but still independent of every allowance we must from necessity and a feeling of conscientious duty say that in its present condition the school is nearly if not entirely unproductive of benefit to any of the scholars who attend."

In the school reports, the Society minutes and resolutions, those attending the school were invariably referred to as scholars, only rarely as pupils or students.

Out of the visits of the school committees grew the custom of inviting the members to visit the school for a St. Patrick's Day celebration. The first such ceremony was held on March 15, 1844. After oral examination

of the scholars, premiums were awarded for scholarship, regular attendance and good behavior. In time this simple occasion developed into a somewhat elaborate affair with a number of traditions. It became customary, for example, for the wife of the president or one of the officers to distribute candy, or, as the secretary sometimes phrased it, "a handsome collation." Business firms and friends began offering prizes, and in 1866 Stricker Jenkins began awarding scholarship medals in honor of his father, Hugh Jenkins, a former president. Soon the affair was attended by Hibernians, friends of the school and parents of the scholars. The portrait of Oliver was hung with green bunting and often a potted shamrock plant was placed in front of it. The Irish flag was flown from the school's staff. Boys wore shamrocks, girls green ribbons and all had on their best clothes. One year the children looked so bright and well scrubbed that the minutes noted, ". . . their general appearance won the admiration of all present, and was the subject of comment in the daily papers." The high point of the ceremony came at the end when the president of the Society arose and announced that the school would be closed until the following Monday.

The Society's interest in the school took many forms. After one unfortunate experience in letting the school run down, the members saw to it that the classrooms were kept freshly whitewashed, the playground fenced in and the rooms warm in winter. They also spent considerable money on equipment—there are many references in the minutes to the purchase of maps, globes, new books, slates, etc. On one occasion the Society even did some politicking. After the school was assessed \$236 when Lexington Street was extended past the school, the Board of Managers suggested that the members speak "to their ward councilmen." The money was soon returned.

The school undoubtedly reached its peak just prior to the Civil War. Then, its records note, there was a "great desire" on the part of many children to be admitted. In fact, so many clamored for admission that it was again necessary to restrict the student body to children of Irish birth or parents. The school was popular for two reasons. First, it was the best of its kind available to the Irish and the poor. Second, its graduates were, as the minutes put it, finding many opportunities "in honourable employment."

## Emigrants and Two Heroes

THE TIDE of Irish immigration was running strong by 1840, but it surged to flood proportions during the great potato famine of the late 1840's when nearly one fourth of the Irish population of 8,000,000 died of fever and starvation. In 1847 Irish emigration to the United States exceeded 105,000 (compared to 44,821 in 1845), and in 1848 it reached nearly 113,000. The main ports of entry were Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore.

Most of the emigrants came on sailing ships that took from 35 to 120 days to cross the Atlantic, depending on the prevailing winds. Passage from Liverpool to an Atlantic Coast port cost about £4, less than \$20.

Carl Wittke, in his excellent book, "The Irish In America," gives a vivid description of how the emigrant traveled—"Emigrant ships in the 1840's were equipped with wooden bunks and straw-stuffed sacks for mattresses. The walls were usually whitewashed. As a rule, single women were quartered at one end of the steerage, the men at the other, and married couples in between. Passengers not only slept in their berths, but frequently ate there. Most Irishmen in the early, heavy immigration brought their own food. In 1850, they were advised to provide themselves, if they could afford it, with oatmeal, rice, flour, bacon, ham, fish, butter, milk and eggs. The latter were to be rubbed with suet and bedded 'on their ends in salt and oatmeal' to keep them edible during the voyage. Immigrants also were urged to bring a little salt, senna or castor oil, and to take 'one or two doses. . .during the voyage, and especially one on arriving in America,'



to ward off fever caused by the change in climate. Actually, Irish steerage passengers lived largely on oatmeal porridge, which they sweetened with molasses whenever they could afford it, and their main meal consisted of herring and potatoes. The supply of fresh water generally did not last out the voyage, and there was no water for washing. The crowded quarters were fumigated with vinegar. . . In the overcrowded steerage, there was little space for ventilation or movement among the passengers. The decks were often dirty and unscrubbed. Many passengers, rather than cook their own food, ate it raw. Ham and butter spoiled quickly. On one-deck ships, passengers slept on top of cargo; otherwise they were crowded between decks, with a five-foot clearance stipulated by law. . . There was no privacy during the voyage, even for the change of undergarments; and the stench when the hatches were opened at the port of arrival was incredibly bad. The noise of the steerage must have been almost unbearable, with the retching of the sick, the rattle of tin dishes and utensils at meal-time, the crying of children, and the sounds coming from the violent motion of the ship."

During the famine years the mortality rate, particularly among children, was sometimes high. Many of the passengers suffered from dysentery and "ship fever"—a kind of typhus.

In the Spring of 1847 three ships, the *Hampden*, the *Richard Anderson* and the *Rio Grande*, arrived in Baltimore, crowded with emigrants who were suffering from famine and fever. When the *Hampden* docked a Hibernian wrote in his journal, "The ship *Hampden* has just arrived, freighted with human misery and death. Six of her passengers died at sea, and there are about 60 more on board, languishing with fever and destitution."

The Society made an emergency appropriation of \$50 to the *Hampden* passengers for medicine and food. Greater measures, and more money, were needed when the other two ships docked. The Hibernians began a public solicitation of funds, raising \$1,551.90½. The money was used to pay for the services of an extra physician and to build an emergency sick lodge in Canton.

The Society's minutes, for the most part, give only the bare facts of the organization's measures of assistance—the emergency meetings, the motions and the resolutions that were translated into aid. There is no hint of the heroic deeds performed by the Hibernians. To get those it is necessary

to turn to an anonymous report included in the "Eulogy of Good Father Dolan" delivered by William P. Preston.

"I remember the arrival of the first ship," the report began. "She had a large number of passengers and most of them were very ill. Their miserable condition was reported to the Hibernian Society. I was present when a large number of members of the Society, headed by Mr. Hugh Jenkins, the President, went to Fell's Point to visit the afflicted. We found the emigrants chiefly at Mr. Thompson's—sign of 'The Harp,' on Ann, near Thames Street. I shall never forget their wretched appearance. It was evident that many of them had suffered everything short of actual starvation before they left Ireland, and that in their feeble condition the ship-fever, which had broken out during the voyage, found them an easy prey. The immediate wants of the sufferers were promptly attended to, and all who were seriously ill were sent to the infirmary, where they were kindly visited by members of the Society, and by Father Dolan and Dr. Charles Maguire, the former chaplain, the latter physician of the Society.

"During the month of April of the same year there arrived two other fever-stricken, or, as they were sometimes called, 'famine ships.' One, I think was named the *Rio Grande*. She was immediately boarded by Father Dolan, who was completely horrified by the frightful condition of the emigrants and the extreme filthy condition of the ship. He immediately notified the Hibernian Society, which, without delay, again took steps for relief. Mr. Jenkins, the President, several officers of the Society, and Mr. George Rielly, whom I accompanied, proceeded to where the ship was. I cannot describe to you what we saw! But at once we procured a place at Canton, near the Lower House, bought lumber, employed carpenters, hired laborers, and proceeded to build a very large house, with bunks, &c., &c. We worked night and day—the captain and owners of the ship threatening to discharge the emigrants on the shore. Under the pressing necessity of the case, Father Dolan endeavored to obtain, and did obtain, from the then collector of the port, permission to use the old Lazaretto building until ours would be ready, but from some cause the permission was withdrawn. Every day some of us would be down there, urging the completion of the work, and often working hard with our own hands—frequently until late at night. At length it was absolutely necessary, if any lives were to be saved, that the unfortunates must be moved out of their abode of death—the ship.'

“Accordingly, although the building was not quite ready, we informed the captain of the vessel that on the 6th of May, at 12 M., we would receive the passengers. On that morning Mr. Hugh Jenkins, Father Dolan, James Kernan, George Rielly, and myself, proceeded to Canton to make the necessary arrangements. The sun was not more than half an hour high when we arrived on the ground where our building was, and to our utter horror and surprise we found all the passengers on board of two scows, without water, provisions, or anything else for their comfort. There were the sick, the dying and the dead—for when we arrived, there were two dead on board of the scows. The sight was dreadful to behold! Immediately the country around was scoured for water, milk, provisions, &c., which was kindly given by the people of the neighborhood. Preparations were at once made to land the wretched victims.

“In the meantime, two rough boxes were made. . .to answer as coffins for the two dead bodies. Before we had finished them, we found a third would be wanted, another poor creature having just died! The reason why we had to make the coffins, was because the carpenters had fled, terror-stricken, from the building. Never shall I forget the beginning nor the ending of that sad day. It was a beautiful morning, the sun broke forth without a cloud, and there lay the dead bodies of the three poor emigrants in their rough coffins, and Father Dolan standing on the beach saying the burial service over them. The service being over the remains were put in carts and taken to St. Patrick’s graveyard.

“The removing of the emigrants to the house, and necessary attention to them there, occupied all that day—indeed until midnight. . .During the evening we had to search for several of the emigrants, who had staggered to the woods, where they had thrown themselves down to die. I cannot at this distance of time name all who were present exerting themselves to alleviate the suffering of these unfortunate people, but I do recall particularly Mr. Hugh Jenkins, Father Dolan, Drs. Maguire, O’Donovan and Chaisty, Major James O. Law, Mr. James Kernan and Mr. Geo. Rielly. . .

“The emigrants, notwithstanding every attention was given to them,

*In the early days, new members “signed the constitution.”  
Some well-known names can be found on the register.*



W. Henson

John Oliver

Wm. Thompson

Wm. H. H. H.

William H. H.

Robert H. H.

John L. Craig

John H. H.

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continued to die one after another for some time. At length, Dr. O'Donovan ordered their removal—part were sent to the Infirmary, Lombard Street; the balance to Washington University, Broadway. Some of the emigrants were Protestants—but creed was never thought of, kind treatment was given alike to all. Among them was a young couple who were married a short time before they left home. When they were about being sent to the Infirmary, Major Law, in the natural goodness of his heart, took the wife home to his own dwelling; there she received every attention and recovered. Her husband, whose name was Wallace, died. The Major used to visit the Infirmary almost constantly, and at that time the deaths were almost hourly. The last time I saw Major Law was when I went to the Infirmary, to the funeral of one of the Sisters of Charity, who died of the fever she caught while attending the emigrants. He was still there looking after and consoling the sick and the destitute—noble, generous, godlike man. . . He caught the disease and died within a day or two afterwards. On the 24th of May another martyr was added to the list—Dr. Charles Maguire fell a victim to the pestilence.”

The writer of the report was wrong in one respect. Dr. Maguire died first. The Society attended his funeral in a body, walking “without banner or music.” The officers wore their usual badge of mourning, and the members crape on the left arm. Major Law, treasurer of the Society and a former mayor of Baltimore, died from the fever shortly thereafter. Though the minutes don't indicate, he too must have been given a hero's burial.

After the funerals the Hibernians still had one difficult job to perform arising from the arrival of the three ships. They appointed two of their members, Father Dolan and Timothy Kelly, as guardians for the Society “to superintend the binding out to trades, or otherwise disposing of, such children of the recent Irish emigrants who may have been placed in the Baltimore County Alms House.” The orphans, numbering almost 40, were cared for in a home established by Father Dolan.

Many more emigrants were to arrive needing medical attention. But the Society was able to handle these cases in more routine fashion by providing medicine and free medical care, either through its own physicians or through city dispensaries.

Year in and year out the Society made cash payments, ranging from as little as 50 cents to \$20, to emigrants in need. In 1838, for example,

105 were assisted. In 1852 the number was nearly 700. In 1842, the treasurer, with little money on hand, suggested that the Board of Managers "give aid only in extreme cases and where the managers were personally acquainted with the circumstances of the applicant, with a view of keeping what little resources the Society now has for the winter, which from present appearance is likely to prove a very severe one to the poor, for if the drafts continue upon the treasury as they have done, the funds will be exhausted before the winter sets in."

In 1847 and again in 1859 the Society decided to help emigrants for only a limited time, not exceeding three months. The reason "was to prevent the charities of the Society from being absorbed by persons who are in the habit of calling regularly for aid."

There were many emigrants, of course, who repaid the aid. The minutes contain such entries as, "Rev. Mr. Kerney transmitted to the Treasurer seven dollars, being the sum granted by the managers some time ago for the relief of a poor Irishman, who being now in better circumstances returned the money."

Money to aid the emigrant came from two main sources—membership dues and a municipal capitation tax. To discourage the further influx of pauper emigrants, the city, in 1832, required shipping companies to pay a tax of \$1.50 on each emigrant landed in Baltimore, or to post an indemnity bond in case the emigrant became a public charge within two years. The Hibernian and German societies got 60 cents of the tax on each Irish or German emigrant admitted, and the remaining 90 cents went to the city poor house.\*

For several years, beginning in October, 1852, the Hibernians operated a combination intelligence and employment agency to formalize services that had been performed in the past by individual members. The full-time agent, Cornelius Daly, had two tasks. The first was to assist the newcomer to locate friends and relatives (whether they lived in Baltimore or in the vast western territories), write letters home for them and, for the more fortunate, show them how to remit money to the homeland. The other task was to find jobs for them, either in Baltimore, or, as often was the case, in the South or West. The records show that at least 25

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\* The capitation tax continued in this form until 1876 when the Supreme Court of the United States declared that, under the new immigration law, no state had the right to collect a tax or assessment from passengers arriving at its port.



men and women were placed every month. Many months the demand exceeded the supply. (Years earlier the builders of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal were always seeking Irish emigrant help, particularly those who were skilled masons and stonecutters. The C&O contractors offered transportation money, a bonus and work guarantee.)

The Society's records abound with other examples of aid. Here, selected at random, are a few: Aid and comfort was given one McKenna who was confined to the Baltimore County jail as a debtor. P. Sullivan, emigrant, got a new pair of shoes costing \$1.75. The sum of \$9.50 was paid to bury Maurice Fitzgibbon. Emigrants on the ship *Ellen Brooks*, detained in quarantine for days because of smallpox, got the best care the Society could arrange. Four destitute emigrants were "forwarded to Cincinnati," and two emigrant girls were sent to their parents in Louisville "under proper charge."

The Irish immigration picture began to change in the second half of the nineteenth century. Part of the change could be attributed to the Civil War when there was little chance, or desire, for emigration. In 1861 not one emigrant arrived in Baltimore from Ireland.

In 1866 the emigrant tide began to rise again, but at this time the people needed little or no assistance. That year the president of the Hibernians reported with undertones of bewilderment "that the last steamer from Liverpool had brought 180 emigrants and that in company with the chaplain and treasurer. . .he had visited the ship. . .saw and consulted with the passengers, and found no illness among them." Emigrants were now leaving Ireland in good health and travelling in better conditions, on faster ships. The following year 589 emigrants arrived and "but few were found who needed assistance." Many either had money of their own or, more often, someone here to help them. On one occasion the Society invited one large group of newcomers to settle in Baltimore. The emigrants politely refused—their railroad passage was paid by relatives and friends to various points in the West and South. In 1867 only \$43 was expended for emigrant relief by the Hibernians.

When financial aid was not necessary the members were urged to assist the emigrant "by counsel, sympathy and zeal. . .and by these means promote their happiness and prosperity." The Hibernians were bound to help one way or another.

## The Wearin' of the Green

IN THE PERIOD between the 1820's and the Civil War, the Society's interest was not limited to the school and the emigrant. The members also held a memorable two-day reception for an Irish patriot, placed a memorial in the Washington Monument, staged the only two parades in the Society's history, and often celebrated St. Patrick's Day with ceremonies that lasted most of the day and much of the night, ending with unbelievable banquets that on least one occasion gave a choice of more than 40 principal dishes.

The March 17 celebration began with the annual meeting and election of officers. This was held in the morning at the school. When classes were small, children and teachers attended the meeting, sitting on the back benches, quietly listening to the motions, reports and the long, flowery speeches. After lunch many of the members returned for the oral examination of the pupils and the distribution of the premiums; this often took most of the afternoon. Then the Hibernians marched off to the banquet "to honor Ireland's patron saint." The dinner, invariably described as "elaborate" in newspaper accounts, was followed by speeches, toasts, music, song, and, as many reports put it, "much good fellowship."

Until the Civil War—when the celebration was discontinued because of the "unhappy condition of the country"—the Society had a banquet every year except in 1826 and 1834 when, for unstated reasons, only the annual meeting took place.

The biggest celebration in the Society's 39-year history took place in 1842. That was the year of the parade, and the reason for it undoubtedly

was the Society's new banner. In the twentieth century a banner probably would not arouse much excitement in an adult organization. But in those days a banner was a major and stimulating topic at meeting after meeting.

One committee was formed to get a design made by a "competent artist" and another had the task of raising the necessary \$150. A Mr. Murray at the next meeting "offered some suggestions as to the propriety of securing a suitable case or covering for the banner to protect it from injury." After the artist "gave every assurance" that the banner would be completed before March 17, it was unanimously—perhaps spontaneously would be the better word—decided to have a parade.

The parade formed in front of the school at 9.30 A.M., and proceeded to St. Patrick's Church on Broadway ("for the purpose of hearing the panegyric of the Saint"). The parade was led by the officers in their long coats, top hats and badges, followed by the members and the children of the Oliver Hibernian Free School, who were kept in line by their teachers. A band was engaged, and Irish music was played all the way. After the services the procession marched back to the school for the usual ceremonies.

Part of the annual meeting was devoted to the banner. The minutes note, "Mr. Jenkins, from the Banner Committee, reported that the duties entrusted to said committee had been performed and the result was the production of the banner carried this day in the procession, and after some appropriate remarks from the president suitable to the occasion it was resolved that the thanks of the Society be tendered to the committee for the able and efficient manner in which the duty entrusted to it had been performed." Later "the thanks of the Society were tendered to Mr. D. O'Keefe for the able manner in which he bore the banner in this day's procession."

The banner was described in this way, "The front is silk of a green ground. In the center stands St. Patrick. In the background is seen a church. Surrounding this are a harp, cloverleaves and a chain wreathed in gold. At the bottom are the words, 'Erin Go Bragh.' The reverse is blue silk. In the center is the Goddess of Justice. On her right is an eagle with the American shield, on the left the Irish harp and in the background a freighted ship. At the bottom the words, 'Hibernian Society, Formed 1803.' The banner is trimmed with heavy gold bullion fringe and tassels finished with silk drapery. Drops on each end of the cross pole are



ornaments of green-leafed shamrocks. The banner is suspended by a heavy rich gold cord."

The banner was carried in another parade the next year. The procession moved from the school to Calvert Hall where Dr. E. J. Chaisty, a member of the Society, delivered "an oration suitable to the day and the occasion." The line of march included members, their friends, the students of the Oliver Hibernian Free School and those of St. Patrick's Free School. Members received a shamrock to wear. Each was asked to donate 50 cents to defray expenses. At the meeting that day the subject of the banner came up again—when was the Society going to finish paying for it?

It is perhaps significant that the banner is never again mentioned in the minutes and that no more parades were held. Perhaps the banner was reclaimed by the artist who made it, a Mr. T. C. Ruekle.

Succeeding banquets followed the usual pattern except for these exceptions. In 1843 the presidents of the Scotch and German societies were invited as guests. The 1845 dinner was held without the presence of the president, Col. Sam Moore, who was in Londonderry, Ireland. He later wrote the Society "his heart and memory were with them" that day and he did not forget to drink to the "health and happiness of each member of the Society." In 1848 it was decided to have as many managers for the dinner as there were states in the Union. Many managers were needed in those days because the dinners were gigantic undertakings. The menu for the 1849 banquet, for example, offered a choice of more than 40 dishes, including such delicacies as "Robbins, à la St. Cloud." The wine list offered imported champagne at \$2.50 a quart.

The location of the anniversary dinner changed every few years. Prior to 1847 it was held at the Exchange Hotel, Beltzhoover's Hotel, and Boizard's European House on South Street. The last named was picked in 1839 after six other hotels turned down the annual dinner. Following the one at the Fountain Inn, dinners were held at the Eutaw House, Mr. Giles's Hotel on Market Street, the Maryland Institute and Guy's Monument House.

On March 9, 1853, the Society presented a block of marble to the Monumental Association for the Washington Monument then being erected in the capital. The stone, which cost \$190, was marked with the name of the Society, its officers and managers and two decorative designs. The money was raised "by a beg of \$2" on the members.

# CALL OF FARE.

## OYSTERS.

Oysters on half shell.

## SOUP.

*A la Lorrain.*

## FISH.

Boiled Rock, Oyster sauce.

Baked Shad, Wine sauce.

## COLD DISHES.

Boned Turkey, ornamented on Pedestal,

Boiled Tongue, garnished,

Roast Chicken, with Jelly,

Fish Salad, ornamented,

Boiled Ham, ornamented,

Boned Pigs Head, ancient style, on Pedestal,

Chicken Salad, ornamented,

Boned Wild Turkey, ornamented on Pedestal with Jelly,

Rounds Beef, Alamoide,

Boned Shoulder Mutton, Swan shape, ornamented.

## BOILED.

Turkey, Oyster sauce,

Leg Mutton, Caper sauce,

Chicken Cellary Sauce.

## ROAST.

Saddle Mutton, Cranberry sauce,

Turkey, Giblet Sauce,

Baked Oyster Pye,

Lamb, mint sauce,

Fig,

Chickens,

Scalloped Oysters,

Veal,

Pork.

## SIDE DISHES.

Young Pigeons, *a la Dauphine en Croustade,*

*Fant a Vent*, Filled with Oysters,

Fillet of Wild Ducks, Game sauce,

Larded Partridges, *a la Toulouse,*

Pheasants, *a la St. Cloud.*

Stewed Terrapins, Port Wine sauce,

Fillet of Chicken, en Supreme, with Truffles,

Calfs Head en *Tortue*,

Fillet of Mutton, Larded, Madeira Wine sauce,

Larded Veal, Tomato sauce,

Fillet of Pickerel, *a la Orly,*

Robbins, *a la St. Cloud.*

## GAME.

Roast Saddle Vension, Currant Jelly sauce,

Canvass Back Ducks, Currant Jelly sauce,

Wild Goose, Apple sauce,

Red Head Ducks, Cranberry sauce,

Wild Turkey, Cranberry sauce,

Black Ducks, Currant Jelly sauce.

## VEGETABLES.

Baked Sweet Potatoes,

Boiled Irish do plain,

Do do do brown,

Cellery ornamented,

Cold Slaw, garnished,

Lettuce,

Boiled Rice,

do Hominy,

do Onions,

do Beets,

do Cabbages,

Fried Parsnips.

## PASTRY.

Mince Pie,

Apple Pie,

Peach Pie,

Pumkin Pie.

*Cranberry Pie,*

## FRUITS.

Damson,

Quince,

Crab Apple,

Peach,

Pear,

Gages,

Raspberry,

Currant,

Cranberry,

## DESSERT.

Floating Island,

Ice Cream,

Frozen Custard,

Blanc Manger,

Calves Feet Jelly.

## FRUIT.

Malaga Grapes,

Vinoids,

Raisins,

Apples.

Oranges,

Pecan Nuts.

## HOT COFFEE

The minutes describe the presentation in this way, "On arriving at Washington, the block was conveyed to the City Hall, followed in procession by the Committee on Presentation, where the Monument Committee was waiting. Hugh Jenkins, Esq., President of the Society, advanced to the venerable Chairman of the Committee, General Walter Jones, and addressed him in eloquent and appropriate language. General Jones responded in a very eloquent speech. He alluded to the part which Irishmen had taken in the Revolutionary war; to the high esteem in which they were held by the illustrious Washington, and the implicit confidence he had always reposed in them; to the strong ties which bind together the people of this country and the children of Ireland, and to the pleasure with which he received this offering of Irishmen as an ornament to the great work now being erected to honor the memory of Washington."

The next important event in the Society's history was the reception for William Smith O'Brien, "the distinguished Irish patriot." This is the way the minutes described his visit, ". . . the committee of reception proceeded in carriages to the President Street Depot where were assembled several hundred of our fellow citizens awaiting the arrival of the distinguished patriot and anxious to get a sight of him whose life had been devoted to the cause of Irish rights and liberty. On the coming in of the train, Mr. O'Brien was at once conducted to the carriage in waiting, and was driven in company with the committee to Barnum's Hotel, where he was formally received by the President in a welcoming address, congratulating him upon his liberation from bondage and expressive of the feelings of Irishmen, their descendants and friends, on seeing in their midst one, who, by his efforts in behalf of his oppressed countrymen, had endeared himself to the lovers of liberty in every land. Mr. Jenkins welcomed him to the hospitalities of Baltimore, and testified the gratification he felt, as the organ of the Hibernian Society, in receiving him as the Society's guest during his stay in the city.

"Mr. O'Brien made an appropriate response, giving his thanks for the demonstrations of respect, to him so unexpected, and expressing his grati-

*This was the bill of fare for the St. Patrick's  
Day dinner at the Fountain Inn, March 17, 1849.*





*In 1853 the Society presented this block of marble to the Washington Monument Association. It cost \$190.*

tude for the warmth with which he had everywhere been received, stating at the same time that although he was only visiting the United States as a private gentleman in a plain and unostentatious way for instruction and amusement, still it would give him much pleasure to receive such of his countrymen and others as might desire to meet him.

"After dining in company with the committee, a large concourse of people having in the meantime surrounded the hotel, Mr. O'Brien addressed them from the balcony, returning his thanks for the popular

demonstration of regard, and calling upon his countrymen present so to conduct themselves in this, the land of their adoption, as not to excite the ill-will or jealousy of the American people. Mr. O'Brien then, for two hours received personally and was introduced to such citizens and strangers as desired it, and at 11 o'clock, on invitation of Capt. Chaisty of the Shields Guards, visited the Ball of that company at the New Assembly Rooms, where Mr. O'Brien was enthusiastically received and himself and the committee handsomely entertained.

"On the following morning Mr. O'Brien was called on by the President, Mr. Jenkins, and Vice President, Mr. Foley, and with them visited the various courts where he was received with much respect by the judges. Subsequently, after a brief visit to different public institutions, he was entertained at the house of Mr. Jenkins, where a number of gentlemen had been invited to meet him in an informal manner. During the day he also visited the houses of the Rev. Mr. Dolan, Mr. Foley, and Col. Kane and D. C. Donovan and at 3½ P.M. took his departure for Washington in company with a number of the committee who escorted him as far as the Relay House. . ."

In 1860 the Society received a gift of \$1,015, the funds of the disbanded Associated Friends of Ireland. At several other times it had received gifts and donations. In 1834 it was bequeathed \$500 by a member. A few years before it had received \$123.08 from the Emancipation Society.

The gifts were most welcome. The Society, with many obligations to the emigrant and the school, never had too much money. Income came only from dues, capitation tax and income from stock. And this wasn't much. The financial statement for 1852 read, "The receipts for the past year, \$2,159.90; from capitation tax, \$1,783.40, from 93 members of the Society who paid only \$279, and from the interest accruing from City Stock, \$97.50."

All during its early history the Society struggled to increase its membership and to get members to pay dues. The latter was always more difficult than the former. Campaigns for membership took many forms. In addition to neighborhood recruiting, mentioned earlier, the Society sought members through newspaper advertisements, broadsides, and tapping such fertile fields as the Associated Friends of Ireland.

A new member was formally introduced by his sponsor (who often paid his dues for the first year, sometimes as long as the man was a mem-

ber) and then he "signed the constitution." New members had the privilege of buying a diploma, a certificate of membership, for 2 cents.\*

In 1836 dues were lowered to \$3 in an attempt to attract more members and to get more to meet their obligations. In 1838 there were only 83 paid up members. A collector was hired in 1841. He managed to collect \$240 in dues and was paid \$24 for his work. But even a professional dues taker could not budge some. In 1859 only \$223.80 was collected. Many had not paid anything for five years. Committees were formed to wait on delinquents, and, according to the minutes, most of the committees just waited.

The uncertainty of the times undoubtedly had a great deal to do with the problem of membership and money. Unfortunately this cannot be gauged accurately by the records. There are only one or two meager references to the Civil War. These are limited to such comments as "in view of the unhappy and unsettled condition of the political affairs of the country, the usual dinner will be dispensed with." The Society, in a city which was famous for its divided sentiments, was obviously not taking sides.

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\* On June 1, 1857, the president proposed the name of Thomas Foley, new-born son of D. J. Foley, Esq., as a member and he was unanimously elected. This is the first reference in the minutes to the election of a member's child.



## 100 Years Old and Still Going Strong

IN THE YEARS following the Civil War the Society experienced its most trying times. At one point there was even vague talk of dissolution unless new interest was generated.

The difficulties seem to date from the death of Hugh Jenkins in December, 1863. He had been president for nineteen years, a bulwark of the society for many more, and his loss was greatly felt. For the next four years there were seldom more than five or six members at meetings, which were then being held quarterly. During an 1867 session the president took public notice of continued absences, particularly of the officers, remarking, "It was not to be wondered at, that members absented themselves, when the officers manifested such apparent indifference." No St. Patrick's Day dinner was held that year because of "apathy of members" and "deference to feelings of several officers whose families had been visited with several domestic afflictions during the past few months." Apathy still existed in 1870 when the minutes noted, "The president next read an extract from the will of Mr. Oliver and adverted to the fact, that in case the old life is not rekindled and the officers prove faithful and attentive to the trust and to their duties, that the bequest would, by the will, revert to the heirs of Mr. Oliver."

After that interest improved. At the next meeting it was unanimously moved that all past dues be remitted and the members readmitted "on a fresh basis." Plans also were announced for the annual dinner. Members



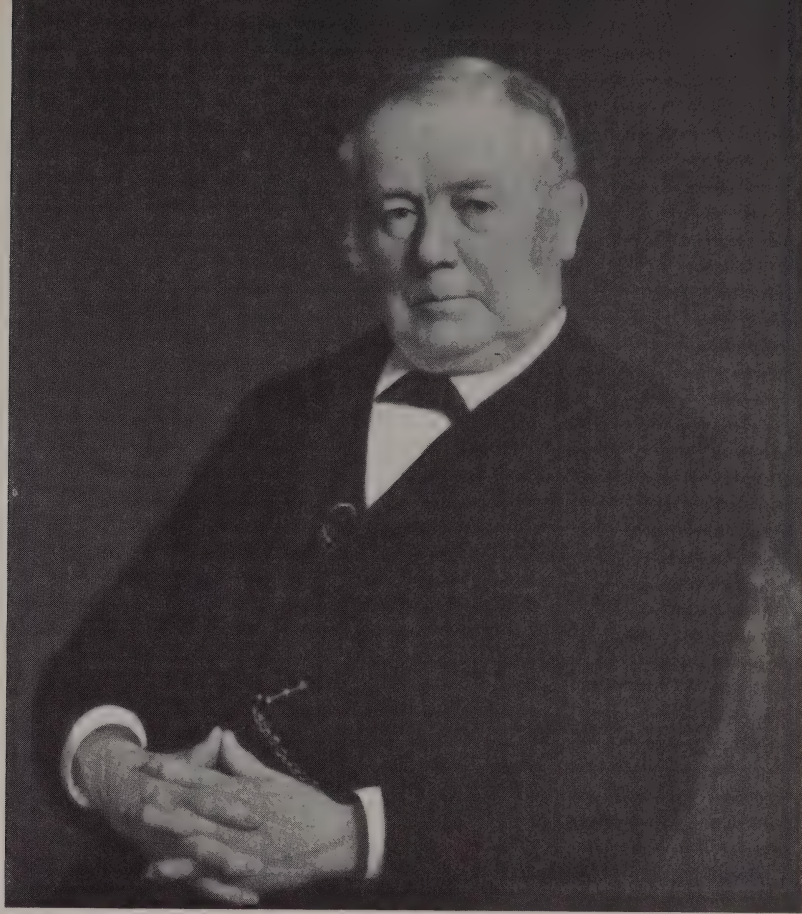
*Hugh Jenkins was one of the Society's outstanding presidents. He served for nineteen years, from 1844 to '63.*

were asked to vote for a \$6 dinner, or one with champagne that would cost \$7.50. The latter was voted unanimously.

At the March, 1872, meeting, 52 members were present, twelve new ones signed the constitution and ten were proposed for membership. Interest was indeed picking up.

The death of two deeply revered members less than a month apart in the winter of 1870 also must have rekindled latent interest in the organization because their funerals attracted practically every Hibernian, past or present. The first to die was Dr. John H. O'Donovan, one of the oldest members and Society physician for 31 years. His work among the poor and the emigrants was already a Society legend. The other funeral was that of the Rev. James Dolan, chaplain of the Society for 29 years, pastor of St. Patrick's church, founder of the orphans' home, a leader in the Catholic community, and one of the truly great priests of his day.

This was the "ritual" of a Hibernian funeral. Upon the death of a pro-



*Daniel J. Foley was president from 1864 to 1872. He served during a difficult period, helped rebuild the Society.*

minent member a special meeting would be called to alert the membership and make plans. An officer would call on the family of the deceased "to offer the services of the members to sit up at night." Pews would be set aside in the church. Sometimes hacks would be hired for the procession, but more often the Society would march to the church in a body. All would don badges of mourning, which were worn for 30 days. In the case of an officer or school official the school building would be draped in black for the same period. A floral piece in the form of a Irish harp was always sent. A committee would draft resolutions of respect. These would be printed in the newspapers and an embossed copy, attested by the officers, would be delivered to the deceased's family.

The following eulogy was delivered, not for a prominent member, but a simple working man:

"He worshipped God with devoted fidelity; he loved his country with unswerving patriotism, and to his fellowman he was kind, hospitable and



generous. It is too much the habit of the world to only grant the title of 'good and useful citizen' to men of large wealth. The deceased won this distinction without large wealth and was justly considered the friend of the unfortunate. He earned this distinction by the goodness of his heart, the generosity of his nature and the fearless courage which characterized his active benevolence.

"As a noble representative of the sons of toil, he has a lasting monument in the hearts of his constituency. The cheerful kind-hearted generous George Rielly will be affectionately remembered by many who are now living and proudly referred to by those who are to come, as a man whose smile encouraged the struggle and whose means and tearful sympathy consoled the broken down and afflicted. His example will not be lost. The tears that fall upon his grave will exhale to Heaven and again descend to shed the refreshing dews of benevolence on other hearts. Peace to his ashes."

The 1870 anniversary dinner, served with champagne, revived interest in March 17 celebrations for a few years. A banquet was held annually until 1876, when it was discontinued because of "universal want." Another wasn't held until 1885.

During this period a move was made to reduce dues to \$1, but it failed.

In 1870 the minutes contained this entry—"It is remarkable that the city registrar has not to report the arrival of one emigrant to this port, from Ireland, during the past year." A similar entry was made in 1872.

Emigrants, in small numbers, continued to straggle in for many years, but the great emigrant work of the Society was over.

In the 1890's the Society helped many Irishmen return home, though this really was against its policy. (In 1824 when a Mr. John Power of George Town, D. C., asked for passage money back he was told somewhat sharply that the constitution did not authorize such appropriations.) In September, 1890, the chairman of the emigration committee reported "having a number of appeals from Irish emigrants for assistance to return home to Ireland, and after investigation by the committee they were sent back at the expense of the Society." The reason given in one case was simply stated, "Irishwoman in distress." This note also appeared in the record, "Relief and passage to Ireland were given to Catherine McCluskey, Sarah M. Murphy and Mrs. Ann Clark and four children at a cost of \$70.63." Commenting on the returns, a member of the emigration com-

mittee reported, "It was the best thing they could do, as they were of no good to themselves here being unable to earn a living."

When it was no longer necessary to help the needy emigrant, the Society used its energy and funds in other ways. During a financial panic in 1874, \$500 was appropriated "for the relief of the most necessitous Irish poor throughout the City." Six years later a motion was made to appropriate \$1,000 "for the relief of the suffers in Ireland." The money, however, was placed at the disposal of a committee "whose special duty shall be to obtain employment for emigrants . . . and provide economical transportation for such as may desire to proceed to the West or South."

Though the country was in a prolonged economic depression the Society's finances were surprisingly good. The financial report submitted at the annual meeting in 1880 was as follows:

Special deposits in the Savings Bank of Baltimore.....	\$2,994.47	
69 shares of the National Farmers Merchants Bank of Baltimore, the par value of which is \$40 per share.....	2,760.00	
\$900 of Water Stock of the City of Balto. bearing 5% int...	900.00	
500 of the City of Balto. stock bearing 6% int.....	500.00	
500 of the City of Balto. stock bearing 5% int.....	500.00	
500 of the Balto. & S. R. R. stock bearing 6% int.....	500.00	
500 of the City of Balto. C. H. stock bearing 5% int.....	500.00	
Amount invested.....	\$8,654.47	
Amount uninvested.....	371.07	
	<u>\$9,025.54</u>	
1879 March 17, Balance on hand as per report of this date.....	\$118.73	
Receipts during year from subscription of members.....	339.20	
Dividends on 69 shs of National Farmers & Merchants Bank	165.60	
12 mos int. on \$500 City Stock 6%.....	29.06	
12 mos int. on \$500 City Stock 5%.....	24.22	
12 mos. int. on \$500 Court House 5%.....	24.22	
12 mos int. on \$500 Balto. & Ohio R.R. 6%.....	29.06	
12 mos. int. on \$500 City Stock 5%.....	45.00	656.36
		<u>\$775.09</u>
Disbursements during the year as per vouchers examined and approved by Auditing Committee—being Relief orders, Advertising, Premiums, Printing, Stationery, shoes, etc. ....	404.02	
Balance on hand.....	\$371.07	

That same year the school committee was complaining about small attendance, "which probably may be attributed to the location . . . and the

decrease of dwellings in the neighborhood." By June school officials were discussing the possibility of closing the boys' department and educating the students in private schools. But the Society wanted the school continued, and it was, though it operated at a loss and with a total of fewer than 50 boys and girls.

A survey of the school and its possibilities was made in 1883. The report stated in part, "... the school is attended by few scholars and of these none are qualified to receive more than the most elementary education, and they [the committee] believe that the good now effected by the school is altogether out of proportion to its cost. This is not the fault of the teachers or of the management. . . The decadence of this school is due to other causes and these are to be found, 1st, in the increased number and usefulness of the public and parochial schools and, 2nd and chiefly, in the location of the school buildings. The building on North Street although in the centre of the city is remote from the dwelling places of those who should fill its school rooms and inconvenient of access for the younger children especially. Whilst its surroundings of workshops and stables render it unsuitable for the purposes for which it is now used. . ."

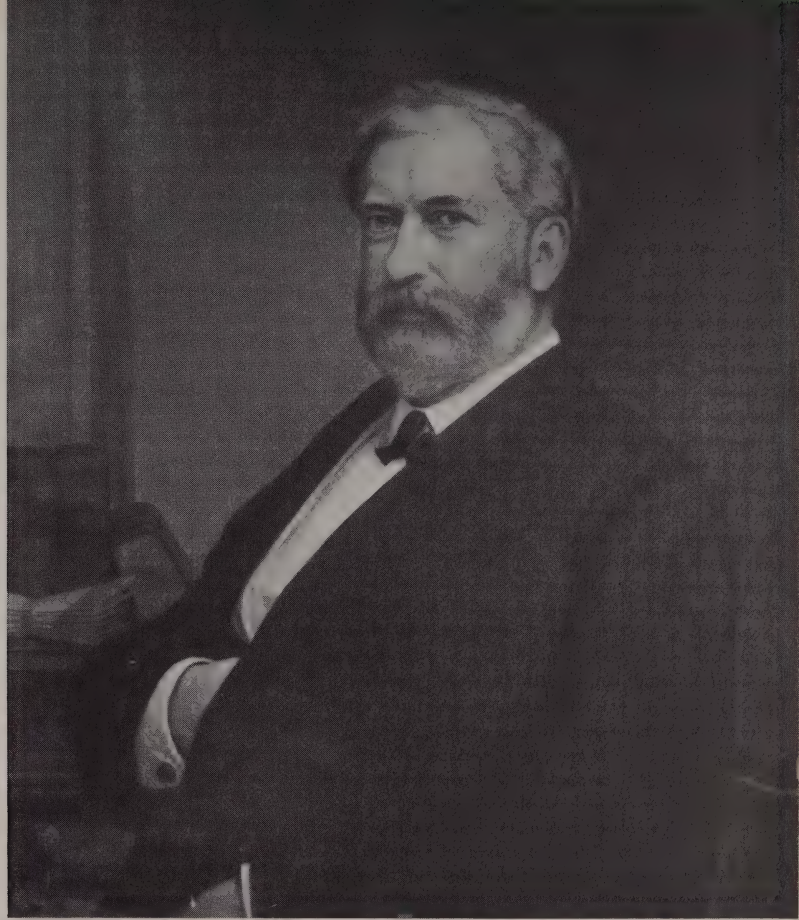
Three proposals were made—and rejected. The first was to introduce a technical course, covering such trades as carpentry and pattern making. The second was to rent or dispose of the North Street property and "to start in three or more convenient and suitable localities, on rented premises, schools similar in general character" to the present school. The third was to continue the school on one floor, rent the other and use the additional money to educate children who lived too far away in neighborhood schools.

The Board of Managers instead continued the regular school and, on November 12, 1883, opened a night school for working boys. The latter, at first open five nights a week, enjoyed only spasmodic success. It started with about 30 students but several times enrollment was so low that the managers considered closing. In other years nearly 60 boys were enrolled. The students ranged in age from 12 to 31.

Another comprehensive report was made on the school in December, 1887, and it too criticized the location. "The character of the neighborhood," the report stated, "is made up of workshops, stables and saloons and even more objectionable features, renders the location altogether unsuitable for the purpose of a school, especially one attended by girls."

Finally it was decided to sell and to move to a new location. Even





*George P. Kane served as president from 1872 to 1878. He was the first marshal of the city's police force.*

though the building was put up for sale the Society had to spend \$290 on repairs to keep it usable as a school. A new roof was erected, the sewer and stairs were repaired and a water closet was installed for the girls. Still nobody seemed interested in buying the property. In 1889 the Society considered closing the night school again. Two years later it discussed doing the same thing for the day school, then with only fourteen pupils.

When the day school closed the last Friday of June, 1891, for the summer vacations, the Society voted to have it "remain closed subject to the report of the special committee." It never re-opened. In that casual way ended a unique institution that had offered a free education to children who might otherwise have been deprived. It is impossible to calculate with accuracy the number who attended, let alone the good the Oliver Hibernian Free School accomplished. A good estimate, however, would be about 12,000 boys and girls, and the results worth every cent and bit of effort the Hibernian Society put into the school for 67 years.

The school property was put up at public auction but withdrawn at a bid of \$6,000. There were only 25 in the night school in 1897. A letter was circulated among the clergy asking them to send students. Another \$250 was spent on the school in 1901 "to make it safe." To broaden the scope of the night school, a course in typewriting was added to supplement one in stenography. Five typewriters were rented for \$2.50 a month.

On June 24, 1902, a committee of 25, with an appropriation of \$500 from the treasury, began planning for the centennial celebration of the Society. It was held at the Rennert Hotel and attendance was limited to 200 members.

*The Sun's* account of the proceedings said in part,

"For a half hour previous to descending to the banquet room an informal reception was held in the parlors on the second floor of the hotel, where on a side table stood a large bowl of punch and other palatable liquids as earnest of the more lavish hospitality to follow.

"Promptly at 7:30 o'clock the procession was formed, with President [William P.] Ryan and Cardinal Gibbons leading. The guests entered the dining hall to the inspiring strains of 'Garry Owen,' played by Fisher's Orchestra behind a bank of palms at the end of the hall.

"The magnificent floral decorations furnished by Samuel Feast & Sons transformed the room into a dazzling scene of vivid color and artistic beauty. The walls above the speaker's table were banked with Southern smilax and palms, while in the center were the crossed flags of the United States and Ireland. At the end of the room the wall was banked with smilax and palms, while in the center was the inscription, '100th Anniversary,' in electric lights, with the flags of the two countries, one on either side.

"In the center of the speaker's table was a magnificent harp composed of Meteor, Golden Gate and Pearl roses, pink tulips and hyacinths, on a base of green, and lilies. At the ends of the table were floral pieces composed of Meteor roses, fuchsias and swainsona, Southern smilax, interspersed with electric globes artistically trailed the length of the table, with potted primroses placed here and there. The other tables were decorated no less beautifully."

President Ryan was the toastmaster. Also seated at the head table were Governor John Walter Smith, Cardinal Gibbons, representatives of other societies, and William Pinkney Whyte, former governor and grandson of Dr. John Campbell White, founder of the Society. He spoke on "The Day

We Celebrate” and most of his speech reviewed, in glowing terms, the Society’s history.

The menu was:

LYNN HAVENS ON DEEP SHELL			
SAUTERNE			
CELERY	OLIVES	SALTED PECANS	SALTED ALMONDS
CONSOMME JULIENNE		AMONTILLADO	
PLANKED SHAD			
POTATOES WINDSOR		CUCUMBER SALAD	
TERRAPIN À LA RENNERT			
MUMM’S EXTRA DRY			
ROAST JERSEY CAPON			
MOET & CHANDON WHITE SEAL			
MUSHROOMS		FRENCH PEAS	
CARDINAL PUNCH			
REDHEAD DUCKS		BURGUNDY	
HOMINY CAKES		CURRANT JELLY	
ASPARAGUS VINAIGRETTE		APOLLINARIS	
FANCY ICES		ASSORTED CAKES	
ROQUEFORT	CAMEMBERT	TOASTED CRACKERS	
CAFE NOIR		WHITE ROCK LITHIA	
CIGARS			

“The musical program was sandwiched in between the courses, and the ballads of the ‘old country,’ rich in the tuneful melody that has made them loved in every clime, were sung in tones that enhanced their native beauty.

“Mr. H. M. Smith gave a rendition of ‘The Kavanagh,’ that delighted his auditors, and Mr. Charles F. Bender sang ‘Kathleen Mavourneen’ in tones that stirred the hearts of the listeners.

“When Mr. Thomas F. McNulty arose to sing the beautiful ballad of ‘The Minstrel Boy’ a hush fell on the assembly, for all present were familiar with the melodious quality of his tenor voice and knew that a treat was in store. Nor were they one whit disappointed, for he was probably never in better voice, and the notes issued forth clear, bell-like and true. When he concluded there was a moment’s stillness and then a storm of applause.

“Moore’s famous sentimental ballad, ‘Believe Me, If All Those Endearing Young Charms,’ was beautifully rendered by Mr. William Taylor, and Mr.



Harry Klinefelter called forth an enthusiastic encore by whistling 'My Beautiful Irish Maid' in a marvelous manner. A duet by Messrs. Thomas F. McNulty and H. M. Smith, 'The Meeting of the Waters,' thrilled the audience.

"At the close of the speaking, and just as the guests were about to arise and wend their way homeward, Mr. McNulty arose and sang, with great depth of feeling, the old Irish melody, 'The Cruiskeen Lawn.'"

The Great Fire of February 7 and 8, 1904, which devastated 1,500 buildings in the downtown section and caused damage estimated between \$125,000,000 and \$150,000,000 forced cancellation of the banquet that year. Invitations that had already been sent were recalled. However, an informal dinner was held at Halstead's, a roadhouse on Park Heights Avenue, near Wiley Avenue. About 25 attended.

But the fire may have helped the Society in one respect. New building was prohibited in the burnt district while a program of reconstruction was planned. The program took more than a year to formulate. Consequently available property beyond the fire line, but still in the downtown section, was in demand. Four months after the fire the school property, which had been on the market for seventeen years, was finally sold to W. R. Miller for \$15,000 in fee simple.

In effect the Society got \$20,000 for the property. After the Lake Roland Railroad Company had erected the elevated trestle on the street, placing an abutment in front of the building, the Society had received a judgment for \$5,000 against the railroad.

The school was soon torn down and in its place was erected a five-story warehouse. The Society made provisions with the wreckers to save the cornerstone if one was found. Evidently there was none. The benches and other school equipment were put in storage. The principal, Judson Hunt, was presented with a photograph of the old building.

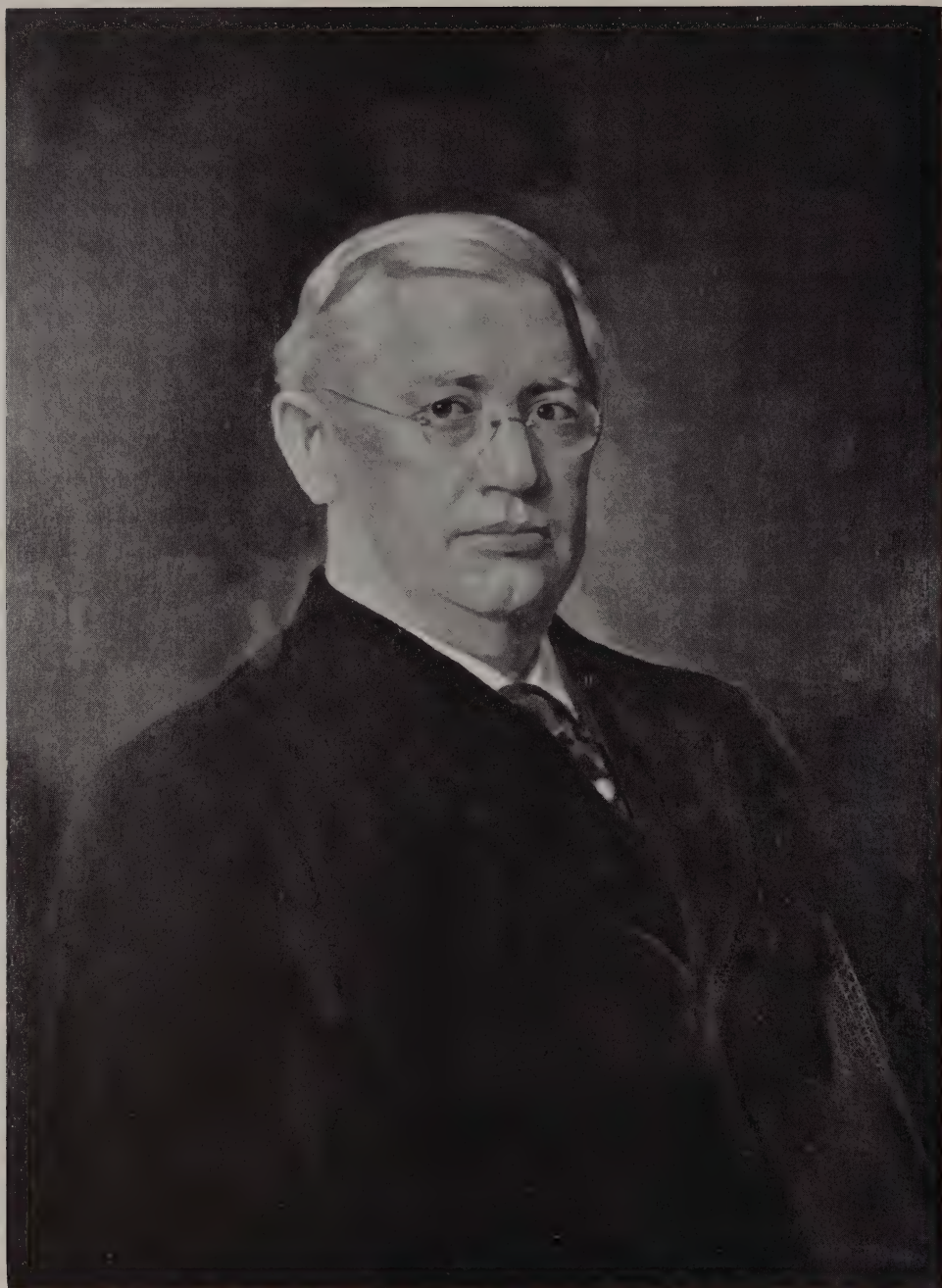
## From Night School to College

AFTER the sale of the old schoolhouse, temporary quarters were obtained in three basement rooms of the Athenaeum Building, on the northwest corner of Saratoga and St. Paul Streets, which was also the headquarters of the Maryland Historical Society. The temporary quarters proved so suitable, both for a school and a meeting place, that the Society remained there for fourteen years.

The first year night school attendance ranged from less than 10 to about 60. A number of the pupils were natives of Ireland and these were considered "among the most assiduous." This example was given, "A young man who came as a beginner two or three years ago is now reading in the fourth reader and owes his promotion to brakeman in the railroad service to what little knowledge he acquired here."

There was a substantial increase in pupils in 1912—257 boys enrolled and an average attendance of 44. Ten courses were offered: shorthand, typewriting, arithmetic, reading, bookkeeping, history, geography, spelling, composition and penmanship.

After war broke out in Europe several North German Lloyd steamers were detained in the Baltimore harbor. Noting that Oliver's will declared "no nationalities were to be barred from the school in the event of vacancies," the Society invited the officers and sailors of these ships to attend the school. Six officers accepted and "have more than once expressed their gratitude and appreciation of the generosity of the Hibernian Society in affording them an opportunity to gain useful knowledge while they are detained."



*William P. Ryan served as president for 32 years (1901-1933), the longest tenure in the Society's history. He was Collector of the Port, from 1915 to 1921.*



Just a few days before the Armistice was signed, girls were admitted to the night school for the first time. The reason was the “great demand for stenographers and other clerical help due to the fact that so many of our young men have gone to France.” Opening of the school had been delayed a month because of the epidemic of “Spanish influenza.” This year the school was in a new location, the third floor of the Patterson Building, on the northeast corner of Gay and Baltimore Streets. The “temporary quarters” had to be vacated after the Historical Society moved to its new home in the Enoch Pratt Mansion on Monument Street at Park Avenue.

The Hibernians held their annual banquet in 1915, but the speakers were cautioned “to make no reference whatsoever to the conflict abroad, as we have all nationalities at our dinner.” No banquet was held in 1918 because of the war. The \$200 the Society had been contributing to the dinner was divided among the Red Cross, the Knights of Columbus and the Y.M.C.A.

This was only the second time that a banquet had not been held on St. Patrick’s Day since 1898, when the Society began holding the affair at the Rennert Hotel. It was in this era that terrapin became a traditional part of the menu—served à la Rennert, with a fine dry wine. The wine, naturally, disappeared during Prohibition. In 1920 the banquet committee said the dinner “would be up to the standard, and the only difference would be the absence of liquid refreshments that had a kick in them.” Another St. Patrick’s Day tradition that developed in the Rennert days was the sending of congratulatory telegrams to the sister societies in Charleston, Savannah, Boston, Philadelphia and New York.\*

The school moved twice in the ’Twenties—in 1925 to 205 West Franklin Street, and three years later to 224 West Monument Street.

For many years there had never been enough money from the school fund to meet expenses, which averaged about \$2,400 a year. (Rent was around \$75 a month and the teachers, usually four, were paid \$3.50 a night.) Income from the school’s securities, which were valued at about \$31,000 was \$1,200.

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\* In 1912 President William P. Ryan represented the Society at the one hundreth anniversary celebration of the Savannah Hibernian Society and in 1913 Judge Charles J. Heuisler represented the Society at the banquet of the Boston Charitable Irish Society.



The Society's diploma was engraved by Hugh Anderson of Philadelphia in 1820. At first diplomas were offered to members for \$2; years later they sold for 2¢.

To keep the school going the Society had been making periodic loans since 1905. By June, 1932, these amounted to \$5,467.42. A year later the Society realized that it would be impossible to continue the school. Many of the corporations in which the Society and the school fund had money were not paying interest, and, even more important, practically all the available funds were tied up in the Commonwealth Bank, which was closed. There was no money to carry on the school.

The last class was held in April, 1933. The Oliver Hibernian Free School never reopened. Its equipment was kept in storage for a time and then given to St. Mary's Industrial School.

As a makeshift arrangement the Society, beginning in the Fall of 1934, sent students to Strayer-Bryant-Stratton Business College. Ten went the first year, fifteen during the next three.

After a long and careful study a scholarship program was adopted on June 22, 1937.

The registrars of Johns Hopkins University, Loyola College, Goucher College, and Notre Dame of Maryland, were asked to submit "the names of several students of Irish descent on their registers, who the faculty believed would not be able to continue without financial assistance from some source the college is unable to supply, and whose scholarship would, in the opinion of the faculty, justify the Society in furnishing the assistance." The Society sent letters to the students who were recommended, advising them of the nomination and asking for certain information. The applicants were then interviewed. Six were selected. One received a \$250 scholarship, three \$200 ones and two \$150 grants.

The report on one scholarship winner stated, "His parents are dead and he lives with his aunt. He is a graduate of Loyola High School and stood third in his class. He was interested in the school activities, was captain of the baseball team and on the basketball squad. He was sports editor of the school paper and associate editor of the year book. Desires to go to Loyola and would need \$175 for his first year."

The banquet was skipped from 1933 through 1937 because of the depression. Instead the Society donated \$500, the amount then appropriated for the banquet, to charity. In 1935 a buffet luncheon was served after the annual meeting, the last affair at the Rennert, which was to be torn down to make way for a parking lot. There was another buffet luncheon in 1937, this at the Southern Hotel, and the next year, at the Emerson Hotel,



there was a banquet on “a modified scale.” The elaborate musical program and floral decorations of past years were omitted because of the depression. Tickets were \$5, the lowest in years. The 1939 affair was more in keeping with the banquets of old and the next two were among the largest and most spectacular held in the twentieth century. The sum of \$1,000 was appropriated for publicity, menu cards, invitations and music for the 1940 celebration. Nearly 300 attended. The next year Frank Knox, Secretary of the Navy, was the main speaker. His address was carried on a national radio network. This was the last banquet for several years because of World War II. A luncheon, at the Society’s expense, was held in 1942, and in 1943 there was an informal supper.

During the war the Society contributed to various causes. Five thousand dollars went to British War Relief, and \$1,000 to Greek War Relief. The Red Cross got a total of \$1,500. Other contributions included \$75 for the U.S.O., \$250 to the Jesuit Missions, and \$25 for the Shamrock Club at Mt. St. Mary’s College, Emmitsburg.\*

Beginning in the 1940’s the Society inaugurated several annual affairs, experimented with others and resolved at least one age-old problem—what to do with the portraits of the presidents.

In 1940 the “Society’s initial award to the man of Irish ancestry who had done the most for his fellow man” was bestowed upon Dr. Thomas S. Cullen, professor of gynecology at the Johns Hopkins Medical School and an internationally known physician. That same year the first of several testimonial affairs honoring members was held. Tribute was paid to Edward H. Burke, the retiring president, at a banquet. William J. Casey, chairman of the school fund for years, was honored at a luncheon. So was Joseph P. Healy following his appointment as Bank Commissioner of Maryland.

The first ladies’ night was held in 1945 and this event became an annual one. The annual deluxe luncheon started in 1946 and ever since it has been a social and financial success. One year the profit was \$2,851.

Now the portraits. For a long time they had been kept in the Peabody Institute basement. In 1924 they were restored and left in the care of the Maryland Institute. Four years later the Institute asked that they be moved

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\* The Society contributed \$1,000 to Irish relief in 1921, and in 1925 collected \$1,455 for the relief of the poor in Ireland, sending the money directly to President Cosgrove of the Irish Free State.



*This is the way the old Oliver Hibernian Free School building looked shortly before it was torn down in 1904.*

and they were sent back to the Peabody. In 1932, after additional repairs had been made, the portraits were hung in the school rooms. When the school was closed they were put in storage. In 1943 they were presented to the Maryland Historical Society.\*

There are portraits of Oliver, George P. Kane, Hugh Jenkins, Daniel J. Foley and William P. Ryan. Oliver's picture was painted by the famous Rembrandt Peale, Kane's by Oscar Hallwig. The portraits of Jenkins and

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\* The portrait of Luke Tiernan, president from 1824 to 1833, which had been on loan to G. Bernard Fenwick, a descendant, was sold to Mr. Fenwick in the 1940's.

Foley were painted by Thomas C. Corner, the one of Ryan by Henry A. Roben.

William P. Ryan, who died in 1933 at the age of 76, had served as president for 32 years, the longest tenure in the Society's history. At every banquet he wore a sprig of shamrock from Athlone.

There was no question of his qualifications for the Hibernian Society. But there were about those of some other members. In 1925, for example, the name of a man was forwarded to the treasurer as a new member. A bill was sent, and was paid. But the man—in this story his name shall be Shapiro—reported that he had been unable to find any trace of Irish ancestry in his family. The Society discussed the case, suspended the rules and really elected the non-Irishman.

During a membership campaign in 1945 the point was raised about "ancestral qualifications for membership." The answer was that for a few years there had been "an alleviating of the rules requiring Irish ancestry." But in 1949 the membership committee unanimously agreed that "all future applications for membership would have to comply with the qualifications called for in the constitution."

In addition to the regular members, both Irish and non-Irish, there have been a number of honorary ones. The first of record were Neal Nugent and Patrick Riely, who were named in 1824 "for their many acts of benevolence to their countrymen in distress." The next year Andrew Jackson, seventh President of the United States, was honored. When he visited Baltimore, officers of the Society waited on him and presented him a diploma of membership.

In more recent years honorary life membership was conferred on Frank H. Frainie, a regular member who had tendered his resignation in 1940 because of illness. In 1943 Msgr. Louis O'Donovan was named honorary member "as a token of affection of his 40 years as chaplain." Howard McGrath probably was the only man ever to be elected after death. That was done in 1942—"with waiver on all dues"—for services he had rendered in connection with the copper plate he was working on at the time of his death.

That was the plate Anderson had engraved in 1818. It evidently was mislaid at one point because the minutes for 1891 reported that it had been found. At that time 250 membership certificates were pulled. After McGrath's death, the plate was turned over to Frank I. Nankivell, a New





mented that for years it was the tradition of the Society to have a harp of flowers which was later placed on the grave of a prominent Hibernian on March 17.”

On March 17, 1956, the Society increased the admission fee and dues from \$3 to \$5, the same as they were when the organization was founded back in 1803.

In recent years the activities of the Society have been concentrated on the four annual events—banquet, deluxe luncheon, crab feast and ladies’ night. As a 1955 report put it, “the purpose of holding these affairs is solely to obtain additional funds to pay costs in connection with our scholarship commitments which have been growing each year.”

The 1955 banquet, attended by 817, produced a profit of \$1,244. That year the crab feast had a profit of \$1,348 and the deluxe luncheon, featuring terrapin, venison and black bear, a profit of \$2,000. The 1956 banquet produced a profit of \$1,586, and the crab feast, attended by 517, of \$1,296.

The book value of the School Fund investments on June 12, 1956, was \$38,438.06. That plus \$7,530.23 cash on deposit gave the Fund a total value of \$45,968.29.

The last available financial report (fiscal year ending February 29, 1956) listed the School Fund’s source of income as:

Cash from previous year.....	\$ 4,411.43
From school fund investments.....	1,228.35
From general fund investments.....	1,014.17
From activities.....	5,048.64
From contributions.....	1,299.00
	<hr/>
	\$13,001.59

The school committee, in its annual report of March 17, 1956, stated that it had provided college aid grants to 23 young men and women at eight institutions at a cost of \$7,700. It also contributed \$1,030.30 towards the tuition and expenses of nine girls in three schools of nursing. That, plus an unpaid item of \$100 from the preceding year, brought the 1956 scholarship grants to \$8,830.30—nearly seven times the amount spent to operate the Oliver Hibernian Free School in its first years.

The scholarship program enabled students to attend seven colleges—Johns Hopkins, Loyola, Mt. St. Mary’s, Goucher, Mt. St. Agnes, Notre Dame, Towson State Teachers—the Villa Julie Medical Secretarial School

and the nursing schools of Bon Secours Hospital, Mercy Hospital and St. Joseph's Hospital.

The Hibernian Society of Baltimore in 1957 has a different mission from that of the Benevolent Hibernian Society of 1803, but the underlying purpose of the Society was the same.

President Daniel J. Foley spoke of that purpose nearly 100 years ago when he admonished his fellow Hibernians "to give their best efforts to the Society, which was charged with a high and holy mission, a noble legacy for beneficent purposes, whose whole object and end was a charity which should enlist all hearts."





# Presidents

John Campbell White.....1803-1812	William J. Carroll.....1890-1892
* .....1812-1815	Simon I. Kemp.....1893-1899
John O'Donnell.....1815-1818	James McColgan.....1899-1900
John Oliver.....1818-1823	William P. Ryan.....1901-1933
Luke Tiernan.....1824-1833	H. Oliver Thompson.....1933-1936
John Kelso.....1833-1840	Edward H. Burke.....1936-1940
Samuel Moore.....1840-1844	William B. Hysan, Jr.....1940-1941
Hugh Jenkins.....1844-1863	Alfred J. O'Ferrall.....1941-1945
Daniel J. Foley.....1864-1872	James J. Lacy.....1945-1948
George P. Kane.....1872-1878	Martin J. Welsh, Jr.....1948-1951
Daniel Donnelly.....1879-1882	Francis D. McNamara....1951-1953
Dennis I. McKew.....1882-1884	Bernard J. Flynn.....1953-1955
Michael A. Mullen.....1884-1890	R. Emmett Voelkel.....1955-1957
James H. Gorges.....1957-	

\* *Not known*

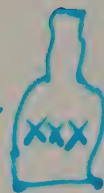




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